Promotion of tourism in Kashmir

57. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, who visited Kashmir during the year 1985 and so far during 1986;

(b) whether his Ministry got prepared any video film highlighting the places of tourist interest to boost tourism in Kashmir; and

(c) if no such project has been launched, will Government consider such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) As per the information available from the State Government, the number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, who visited Kashmir valley during the year 1985 and upto August 1986 are as given below:

	Number of tourists	
	Domestic	Foreign
1985 . . .	465,599	38,015
1986 (Jan-Aug) .	365,252	35,954

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry has already initiated action for the purchase of video films on different places of tourist interest in the country including the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Payment of D.A. instalments to Central Government employees

58. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of instalments of D.A. which have become due for payment to the Central Government employees as per the price index upto September, 1986; and

(b) by when these instalments are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The formula suggested by the Fourth Pay Commission is that compensation for price rise may be paid twice a year on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the 12-monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) for the periods ending June and December each year over the index average of 608 with the salary for September, and March respectively. The recommendations of the Commission have been accepted by the Government for Groups 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees subject to the modification that compensation for price rise would be paid from 1st July with salary for September and from 1st January with salary for March.

Such percentage increase in whole numbers for the month ending June, 1986 works out to 4 per cent for employees of Groups 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Government orders in this regard will be issued in due course.

The decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Commission in so far as Group 'A' employees are concerned is yet to be taken.

Income-tax raids at the premises of newsprint importers

59. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income-tax raids at the premises of newsprint importers were recently conducted in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and also the outcome thereof; and